

IN THE CLAIMS

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) A medicine supply apparatus for use with a plurality of tablet cases each having an accommodating container of medicine and a discharge drum for discharging the medicine from the accommodating container, comprising:

at least one motor for driving the discharge drums; and

a control device for directing the motor to rotate forward for a time interval to discharge medicine from the accommodating container,

the control device being configured to periodically perform an abnormality detection operation in which a first energized current is supplied to the motor for rotating the motor in reverse for a predetermined period of time less than the time interval to discharge medicine, a second energized current is supplied to the motor for rotating the motor forward for the predetermined period of time, a value of the first energized current at the motor is measured, a value of the second energized current at the motor is measured and an abnormality at the motor is determined if one of the value of the first energized current and the value of the second energized current value is outside a predetermined range.

10. (Currently Amended) A medicine supply apparatus, comprising:

a plurality of tablet cases, each having an accommodating container of medicine, a discharging device for discharging medicine from the accommodating container by a discharging operation, and a drive motor which is coupled to the discharging device so as to be able to drive the discharging device and which is rotated in a predetermined direction to make the discharging device perform the discharging operation; and

a control device that directs the driving motor to rotate in the predetermined direction for a time interval to perform the discharging operation,

the control device being configured to periodically perform an abnormality detection operation in which an energized current is supplied to the driving motor for driving the driving motor in a direction opposite of the predetermined direction for a predetermined period of time

which is less than the time interval to perform the discharging operation, a value of the energized current at the motor is measured, and an abnormality of the motor is detected if the [[the]] value of the energized current is outside a predetermined range.

11. (Previously Presented) A medicine supply apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the discharging device is formed in a substantial drum configuration, and medicine is discharged from the accommodating container by the driving motor being rotated in the predetermined direction.

12. (Original) A medicine supply apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein abnormality of the motor includes disconnection of the motor.

13. (Previously Presented) A medicine supply apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the abnormality detection mode comprises a forward rotation mode in which the discharging device is rotated in the predetermined direction and a reverse rotation mode in which the discharging device is rotated in a direction opposite to the predetermined direction, and the reverse rotation mode precedes the forward rotation mode.

14. (Original) A medicine supply apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the control device performs the abnormality detection mode for a plurality of driving motors in turn.

15. (Original) A medicine supply apparatus according to Claim 10, further comprising a display device, wherein the control device controls the display device to display information indicating driving motors in which abnormalities are detected in the abnormality detection mode.

Claims 16-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) A medicine supply apparatus for use with a plurality of tablet cases each having an accommodating container of medicine, comprising:

a discharge drum for discharging the medicine from the accommodating container and having at least one vertical groove;

a discharge port associated with the discharge drum such that medicine is discharged when the vertical groove aligns with the discharge port;

a motor for driving the discharge drum; and

a control device for directing the motor to rotate forward for a time interval to discharge medicine from the accommodating container,

the control device being configured to periodically perform an abnormality detection operation in which a first energized current is supplied to the motor for rotating the motor in reverse for a predetermined period of time which is less than the time interval to discharge medicine, a second energized current is supplied to the motor for rotating the motor forward for the predetermined period of time and an abnormality at the motor is determined if one of the value of the first energized current and the value of the second energized current is outside a predetermined range.

32. (Previously Presented) The medicine supply apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the control device is configured to periodically perform an abnormality detection operation in which the motor is determined to be disconnected if the first energized current is not applied to the motor.

33. (Previously Presented) The medicine supply apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the control device is configured to periodically perform an abnormality detection operation in which an additional energizing current is supplied to the driving motor for driving the driving motor forward in the predetermined direction after the first-named energizing current is supplied to the driving motor for driving the driving motor in reverse in the direction opposite of the predetermined direction.

34. (Previously Presented) The medicine supply apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the control device is configured to periodically perform an abnormality detection operation in which the driving motor is determined to be disconnected when the value of the energized current at the motor is measured and is outside of the predetermined range.